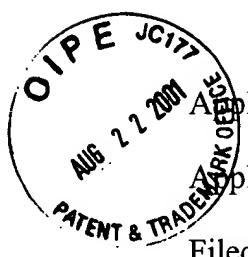


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicants : Yasuo NISHIDA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2731

Appl. No. : 09/285,700

Examiner:

Filed : April 5, 1999

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 3, 1999 and the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements filed on October 14, 1999; June 15, 2000; September 13, 2000; March 5, 2001; May 2, 2001; and June 21, 2001 in the above-identified application, Applicants hereby call to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

A copy of a Canadian Office Action, mailed on April 24, 2001, for corresponding Canadian Application No. 2,290,651 is enclosed, in which the following documents were cited:

U.S. Patent No. 5,142,622 to OWENS, which issued on August 25, 1992;

U.S. Patent No. 5,200,993 to WHEELER et al., which issued on April 6, 1993;

U.S. Patent No. 5,351,237 to SHINOHARA et al., which issued on September 27, 1994;

and

U.S. Patent No. 5,384,835 to WHEELER et al., which issued on January 24, 1995.

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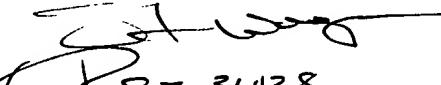
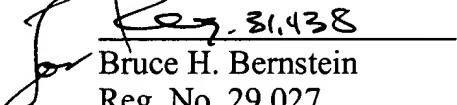
The relevancy of each document is discussed in the Canadian Office Action.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider and cite the above-mentioned documents. Copies of these documents, as well as a copy of the Canadian Office Action, are attached and are listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the same to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not yet issued in the instant application. Therefore, no fee is necessary to ensure consideration of this statement. However, if the first action on the merits has been mailed prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees necessary to ensure consideration of the documents cited herein the Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Yasuo NISHIDA et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

August 22, 2001
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